

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING May 4, 2022 — MINUTES

Committee Members

Present

Mary Durham, Council Chair
Gladys Cortez
Eric Shahid
Lora Taylor
Kim Torres

Sarah Gernsbacher
Cynda Green
Debra Haney
Linda Litzinger
Danielle McEwen
Jolene Sanders-Foster
Kami Shahid
Adriana Valadez
Kathy Williams

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive Director
Tessie Ajala
Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Genessee Klemm
Linda Logan
Evan Marczynski
Sylvia Medina
Richard Rendon
Mary Rochford
Melanie Teague
Rey Valldejuli
Koren Vogel

Council Members Present

Bill Coorsh
Juan Carlos Lopez
Jamie Thomas

Regional Coordinators

Present

Morgan Bradley
Erin Fogarty
Rosa Guel
Skyler Mueller
Shelby Vaughn

Guests Present

Melissa Alvarez
Sonja Burns
Alex Dahl

Call to Order

The Executive Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental convened on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton Austin, 303 West 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. **Introductions**

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. **Public Comments**

Linda Litzinger of Texas Parent to Parent offered public comments on advocacy opportunities during interim hearings of the Texas Legislature. Written public comments were received from Angel Arellano in gratitude for the Partners in Policymaking program.

3. **Consideration of Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed, and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022, Executive Committee meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Eric Shahid

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 1)

4. **TCDD Quarterly Financial Report**

TCDD Director of Budget and Finance Rey Valldejuli reviewed the Summary of Funds for FY 2020 – FY 2022 as well as projections for FY 2023 – 2024. Valldejuli clarified the operating expenses and total grant expenses showing amounts obligated for each year as well as funds available for new grant projects. He also reviewed the stipend expenditures and individual expenses from current grantees.

5. **Budget Revision: Baylor College of Medicine**

Chair Durham reviewed a request from Baylor College of Medicine to increase the budget for the Statewide Community Services – Peer Supports project. The current approved budget is \$58,446 and the request is for an additional \$6,300 to a total of \$64,746 for the project year. This is less than the potential \$125,000 awarded in the Request for Applications for this project. The grantee requests this increase to add two more locations and 10 additional peer mentors to the program.

MOTION: To approve the budget revision for Baylor College of Medicine Statewide Community Services – Peer Supports project with an increase of \$6,300 for a total of \$63,746.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 3)

6. **New Grant Awards**

Chair Durham read a statement regarding Conflict of Interest prior to the consideration of funding for grant projects, reminding members, staff, and guests to excuse themselves from the conversation if a conflict of interest exists.

TCDD Policy Analyst Lauren Gerken reviewed the Capacity Building Mini-Grants – Self Advocacy Groups project that was posted for applications with funding available of up to \$15,000 for up to one year for up to 10 organizations. Gerken reminded members that two projects were funded at the February meeting with three applications to be reviewed this quarter.

Gerken first discussed the application from Imagine Art “Channels 4 Self Advocacy” which aims to increase awareness on current disability advocacy topics through collaborating with other organizations to produce six educational videos.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$15,000 for up to one year to Imagine Art for a Capacity Building Mini-Grant – Self Advocacy Groups project.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Gerken next presented the application from Gulf Coast Self Advocates which will engage in activities to recruit and sustain 12 new self-advocate members and four advocate volunteers.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$14,992 for up to one year to Gulf Coast Self-Advocates for a Capacity Building Mini-Grant – Self Advocacy Groups project.

MADE BY: Eric Shahid

SECOND: Kim Torres

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Gerken next discussed the application from TILT Performance Group, a non-profit theater company for performers with disabilities, which would help support the organization's production of *PAN! A TILTed Peter Pan*.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$15,000 for up to one year to TILT Performance Group for a Capacity Building Mini-Grant – Self Advocacy Groups project.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously.

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle next presented three applications for TCDD Public Policy Fellows program. The program is designed to provide exceptional learning and professional development opportunities for people who are ready to be leaders in a government agency or non-profit organization.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$77,500 per year, for up to two years to Coalition of Texans with Disabilities for a TCDD Public Policy Fellow.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$77,500 per year, for up to two years to NAMI Texas for a TCDD Public Policy Fellow.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Kim Torres

The motion **passed** unanimously.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$77,500 per year, for up to two years to Epilepsy Foundation of Central and South Texas for a TCDD Public Policy Fellow.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Eric Shahid

The motion **passed** unanimously.

TCDD Executive Director Beth Stalvey discussed the New Initiatives Request for Applications (RFA) which allows opportunities for organizations to bring their ideas for projects while promoting innovation and evaluating the needs of the disability community in Texas. Applications received in response to this RFA contained a wide variety of topics and confirmed that Council State Plan activities are responding to those needs. When evaluating the applications, the Executive Committee was asked to consider if the proposal is a new idea, is new to Texas, is new to a specific region of Texas, is an expansion of or additional component of an existing project, and who the project would benefit. The RFA funding amount is up to \$100,000 per year for up to four years for up to five projects.

TCDD Policy Analysts Sabrina Gonzalez and Linda Logan presented the applications received and evaluated by a peer review panel. 24 applications were received from 23 different organizations and 12 applications were recommended for consideration by the Executive Committee. The Committee discussed the following applications:

- The Arc of San Antonio – Employing Peers to Support Community Connections would develop a model practice of peer supporters in the Bexar County service area
- Paso del Norte Children's Development Center – Help Me Grow El Paso would implement a pilot program to address gaps in the screening, identification, and connection to services for children 0-8 years of age
- Imagine Art – Live+Make would establish a new service delivery model that is driven by Person-Centered Planning and peer support.
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston – Partnering with Law Enforcement for Inclusion and Support would conduct a gap analysis then conduct educational and networking activities for law enforcement focusing on interactions with people with IDD
- Texas Tech University – Project AIMS would develop and implement a curriculum to improve the independence of people with IDD by increasing their purchasing skills
- Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute – A Landscape Analysis and Practice Recommendations for Trauma Informed Care for Transition Age Youth Presenting in Emergency Departments would provide practice recommendations for emergency care of transition-age youth with IDD experiencing a mental health crisis
- My Possibilities – MP Inclusive Employment Model would support the transformation of traditional skills development curricula, job coaching and supported employment programming

- Best Buddies International – Equitable Access to Inclusion Project would address barriers that prevent participation in Best Buddies school-based inclusion programs by racial and ethnic minority students
- Epilepsy Foundation of Central and South Texas – EFWork Connection would develop a specialized vocational employment rehabilitation program to combat the high rates of unemployment in adults with epilepsy
- The Center for Pursuit – Improving Life Path Outcomes of Individuals with IDD would provide a Life Path support model framework and program in the Houston area
- Texas State University – Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program would create an affordable, sustainable four-year post-secondary program
- Texas Tech University – Project DATE (Dance Across Texas Experience) would recruit individuals with IDD to participate in dance programs at local organizations

Committee members reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the applications and considered which applications would promote innovation and meet community needs.

MOTION: To approve funding for the following New Initiative projects at the listed funding amount for the first year of up to a four-year project:

- Paso del Norte Children's Development Center – Help Me Grow El Paso for up to \$100,000
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston – Partnering with Law Enforcement for Inclusion and Support for up to \$100,000
- Texas Tech University – Project AIMS for up to \$99,999
- Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute – A Landscape Analysis and Practice Recommendations for Trauma Informed Care for Transition Age Youth Presenting in Emergency Departments for up to \$100,000
- Texas State University – Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program for up to \$100,000

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Kim Torres

The motion **passed** unanimously. It was noted that Texas Tech University has three current projects and per Council policy, this project will not be able to start until one project ends later this year.

7. **Continuation Grant Awards**

Chair Durham reminded members of the Conflict of Interest statement before consideration of continuation grant awards.

Grants Coordinators Sylvia Medina, Richard Rendon, and Melanie Teague presented the executive summaries for 9 projects to be considered for continuation grant funding.

MOTION: To approve up to \$100,000 in continuation grant funding to Literacy United for the fourth year and final year of a New Initiatives – Reading for All project.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To approve up to \$100,000 in continuation grant funding to Texas Parent to Parent for the fourth and final year of a New Initiatives – The Transition Center project.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To approve up to \$125,000 in continuation grant funding to the Association of Texas Advocates for the fifth and final year of a Peer Supports Specialists for Individuals Living in Institutions project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To approve up to \$125,000 in continuation grant funding to Project Amistad for the fifth and final year of a Peer Supports Specialists for Individuals Living in Institutions project.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Eric Shahid

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To approve up to \$125,000 in continuation grant funding to the Texas State Independent Living Council for the fifth and final year of a Peer Supports Specialists for Individuals Living in Institutions project.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Mary Durham

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To not award continuation grant funding to Texas State Independent Living Council for the fifth and final year of the Leadership and Advocacy Training in Rural Areas project.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To approve up to \$149,743 in continuation grant funding to Texas Tech University for the fourth year of a five-year Advanced Leadership Training for Professionals project.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To approve up to \$149,833 in continuation grant funding to the University of Massachusetts Medical School for the third year of a five-year of a Sexual Assault Response and Prevention project.

MADE BY: Kim Torres

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

MOTION: To approve up to \$175,000 in continuation grant funding to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for the second year of a five-year Older Adults with IDD and their Caregivers project.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Eric Shahid

The motion **passed** unanimously. (May 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 5)

8. **Grants Activities Reports**

TCDD Grants Management Director Tessie Ajala discussed the Grants Monitoring Report noting that one new project started during the quarter, two projects ended during the quarter, and four projects moved into the final year of funding. One project extended its budget period due to COVID-19 and one Self-Advocacy Capacity Building mini-grant project approved for funding in February declined to move forward with the project. He noted that two projects will be considered for continuation funding at the August meeting.

Ajala reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report and noted there were no concerns or follow-up items for this report. He also reviewed the Risk Assessment report which groups the grantees by risk level and lists the risk factors to determine each grantee's level. There are currently no projects considered to be in the high risk category.

9. **Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency**

Executive Director Stalvey reported that an audit of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Texas Education Agency executed in August of 2021 indicated an incorrect date in the document. During discussion between TCDD and TEA staff to correct this, it was suggested that the terms of the MOU be extended to three years. TCDD would still do an annual review and changes could be suggested by either party at any time.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Education Agency with an end date of August 31, 2024.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Kim Torres

The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Chair's Report**

Chair Durham reported expected absences of:

- Maverick Crawford
- Meagan Orsag (Texas A&M CDD) – Thursday only

Durham also reported that the Governor's Office announced the appointment of William (Bill) Coorsh, a parent advocate from Houston (replacing Randell Resneder) for a term to expire in 2027. Sean Jackson as the new Executive Director of Disability Rights Texas will be the Council representative from that agency. Coorsh and Jackson along with recently appointed members Juan Carlos Lopez and Meridith Silcox completed orientation and are eligible to vote.

11. **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Stalvey reported that no stipends were requested during the quarter.

Stalvey provided staff updates to include the selection of Tessie Ajala as Grants Management Director and Kai Brewer as Financial Support Specialist. Genessee Klemm has been promoted to the Director of Community Engagement which leaves a vacancy in the Leadership and Advocacy Training Program Manager position.

Stalvey reported on activities funded through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds including the establishment of peer ambassador teams for community outreach, vaccine clinics, and the development of videos and fact sheet related to vaccines. She noted that additional funds have been received from the Administration on Community Living to expand the Public Health Workforce which will create a Public Health and Disability Integration Specialist position through September of 2024.

Stalvey provided updates to include the submission of the Annual Program Performance Report for FY 2020 and FY 2021 and the posting of four RFAs that will

solicit applications for consideration at the August meeting. She also noted that the national DD Network has received a \$1 million increase in funding so there is an expected increase in FY 2022 funding for TCDD.

12. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Committee members reviewed updated conflict of interest disclosure information for Council members and staff. No concerns were noted.

13. **Other Updates**

The next scheduled Executive Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the Council meetings scheduled for August 3-5, 2022.

Adjourn

Chair Durham adjourned the Executive Committee at 5:14 p.m.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date